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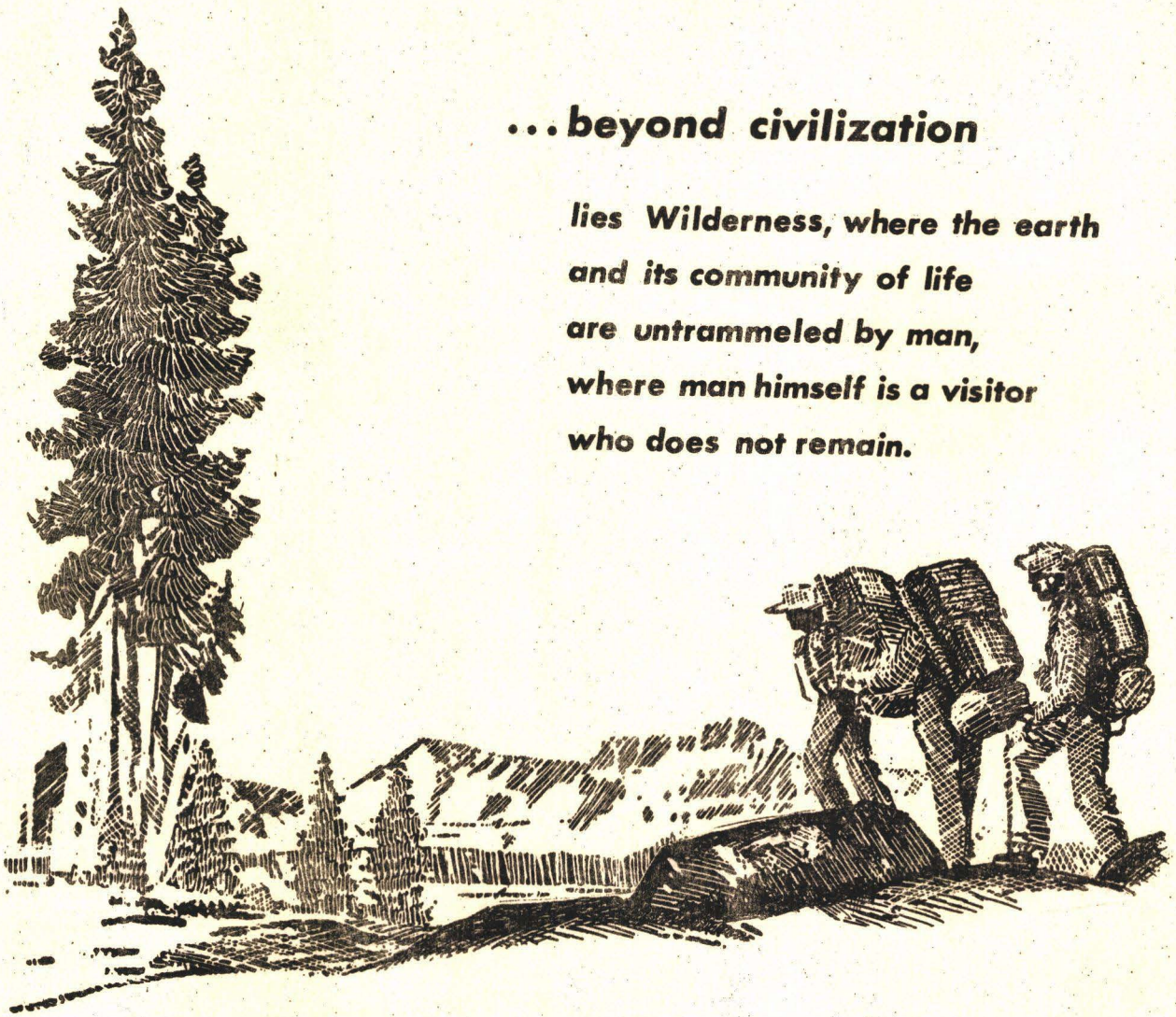
SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA Management Plan

NEZPERCE, BITTERROOT and SALMON
NATIONAL FORESTS



...beyond civilization

lies Wilderness, where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Management Plan
Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area
Bitterroot, Nezperce, and Salmon National Forests
Regions One and Four
United States Department of Agriculture

PREPARED BY:

Stephen O. Butler

Acting — Stephen O. Butler - ACTING — 4/14/78
District Ranger, North Fork Ranger District — Date

Phillip D. Jaquith — 6/1/78
District Ranger, Red River Ranger District — Date

Dean O. Byrne — 5/18/78
District Ranger, West Fork Ranger District — Date

RECOMMENDED BY:

Robert D. Morgan — 5/12/78
Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest — Date

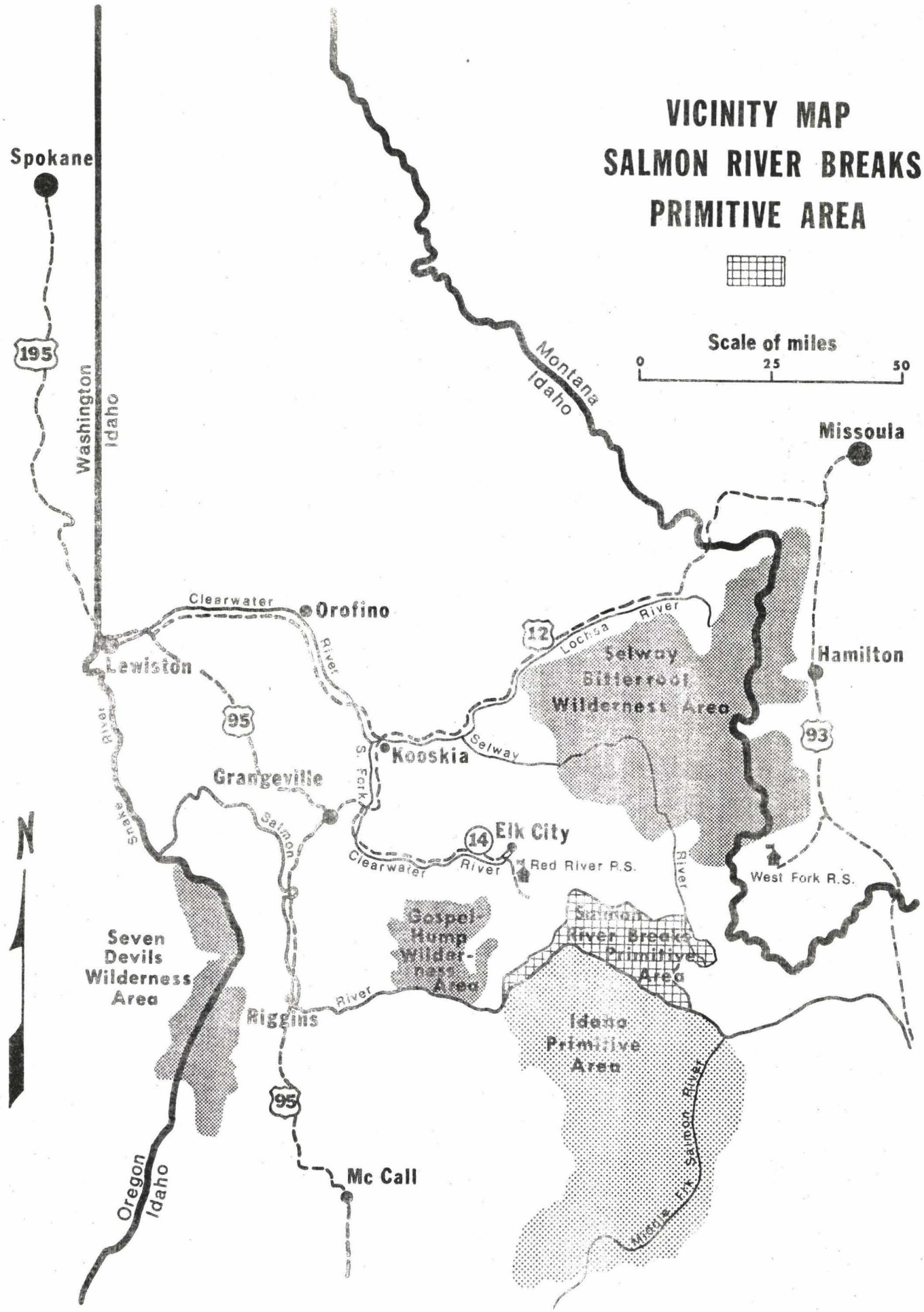
J. A. Doman (Acting) — 4/18/78
Forest Supervisor, Nezperce National Forest — Date

Richard T. Hiatt — MAY 16, 1978
Forest Supervisor, Salmon National Forest — Date

APPROVED BY:

for Tom Coston — 11/28/78
Regional Forester, Region One — Date

Vern Hamre — 12/27/78
Regional Forester, Region Four — Date


VICINITY MAP
SALMON RIVER BREAKS
PRIMITIVE AREA
Scale of miles
0
25
50
Spokane
195
Washington
Idaho
Montana
Idaho
Missoula
Clearwater
Orofino
River
Lochsa River
12
Lewiston
Selway
Bitterroot
Wilderness Area
Hamilton
95
Snake River
S. Fork
Kooskia
Selway
93
Grangeville
Salmon
14
Elk City
Clearwater
River
Red River R.S.
West Fork R.S.
N
Gospel-
Hump
Wilder-
ness
Area
Salmon
River Breaks
Primitive
Area
Seven
Devils
Wilderness
Area
Riggins
River
Idaho
Primitive
Area
95
Oregon
Idaho
Mc Call
Middle Fk. Salmon River

SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA

1978

0 1 2 3 4 miles

LEGEND

- PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
- SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA
- CONTIGUOUS AREA BOUNDARY
- CONTIGUOUS AREA COVERED in this PLAN
- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- PRIVATE LAND

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	3
WILDERNESS	4
AIR AND SOUND	5
SOILS	7
MINERALS AND MINING	8
VEGETATION	10
FISH AND WILDLIFE	13
WATERSHED	16
CULTURAL RESOURCES	17
RECREATION	18
SPECIAL USES	20
PRIVATE LANDS	22
FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE	23
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	26
SIGNING	28
ADMINISTRATION	29
RESEARCH	32
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION	33

APPENDIX
- Boundary Description
- Salmon River Management Plan
- Trail Maintenance Standards

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the contiguous study lands in Big Mallard Creek, Bargamin Creek, and Horse Creek during the period that Congress is considering wilderness designation for the area.

The Salmon River Breaks was a part of the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area, established in 1936. In 1939 the Secretary of Agriculture issued new regulations providing for the study of primitive areas and reclassification of those qualified as wilderness.

In 1963 a portion of the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area was reclassified as the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness by Secretary Orville Freeman. Another portion was given continuing primitive area classification and named the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

The Magruder Corridor, lying between the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, was excluded from classification. The corridor contains roads built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1964 the Wilderness Act incorporated the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness into the National Wilderness Preservation System and directed that all primitive areas be studied to determine their suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness. Findings were to be reported to Congress within ten years. U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for the Salmon River Wilderness were submitted to Congress in 1974.

Since then, other proposals have been drawn up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Congressional members, and interested groups. Until Congress acts on any of the proposals, the Forest Service will manage the original Primitive Area as wilderness. The contiguous areas cannot be legally administered as wilderness, but will be managed to prevent modification of their wilderness qualities.

The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area contains 216,870 acres of rugged river breaks extending more than 40 miles through an essentially unroaded area along the north side of the Salmon River. It lies within the Bitterroot and Nezperce National Forests in Idaho County, Idaho. The Big Mallard Creek and Bargamin Creek contiguous areas are located within the Nezperce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho. The Horse Creek contiguous area is located within the Salmon National Forest, Lemhi County, Idaho.

The northern boundary is generally formed by the hydrographic divide between the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. However, the Selway River, a tributary of the Clearwater River, does have seven miles of its headwaters inside the area.

The West Fork Ranger District on the Bitterroot National Forest, the Red River Ranger District on the Nezperce National Forest, and the North Fork Ranger District on the Salmon National Forest jointly manage the area.

See appendix for the legal description of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

Elevations range from 2240 feet above sea level, at Painter Bar on the Salmon River, to 8990 feet at XIII Mountain.

A wide array of vegetation is present, from very scattered ponderosa pine with a grass or shrub understory on drier lands along the river breaks to whitebark pine and subalpine fir associated with beargrass and/or whortleberry on cool, moist lands at the higher elevations.

Annual air temperature extremes range from well in excess of 100°F to below -30°F. Mean annual precipitation ranges from less than 20 inches a year at the lowest elevations to more than 50 inches per year near Mountain Meadows along the Nez Perce Trail road.

Most of the area is underlain by intensely metamorphosed sedimentary rock which was intruded by igneous rock during the formation of the Idaho Batholith.

The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area is separated from the Idaho Primitive Area by the Salmon River. In North America this river canyon is exceeded in depth only by the Hells Canyon on the Snake River. The Salmon River has been proposed to Congress as an inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Idaho Primitive Area, lying south of and adjacent to the river, has been proposed to Congress as an inclusion into the National Wilderness System.

The Wilderness Act (PL88-577), USDA Regulations (36CFR293), and FSM 2320 provide the framework for this plan. Proposed management direction was developed through consultation with resource managers, interested public, and from data in similar plans. Items adequately covered in FSM 2320 will not be repeated in this plan.

This plan will not directly deal with the ¼ mile on either side of the Salmon River. Instead, the Salmon River Plan will be included in the appendix.

This plan will be reviewed and updated every five years from final approval by Regions One and Four.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To maintain an enduring system of high-quality wilderness representative of all National Forest ecotypes

To perpetuate the wilderness resource for future generations

To the extent that it is consistent with the first two, to provide opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of wilderness and the unique experiences dependent upon a wilderness setting

To maintain plants and animals indigenous to the area by protecting the natural dynamic equilibrium associated with natural, complete ecosystems

To accommodate and administer those "nonconforming but accepted" uses provided in the Wilderness Act and subsequent Acts in a way to minimize their impacts

To consider the special protection needs of endangered plant and animal species and their habitats

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA

To keep future options open to Congress by protecting wilderness qualities

To protect cultural and historic values

To establish guidelines for managing visitor use

To provide administrative uniformity throughout the area

To insure that management of this area is compatible with that of the Salmon River Plan, the Idaho Primitive Area Plan, and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Plan

WILDERNESS

The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the contiguous study areas are unique in that they are part of approximately three million acres of essentially roadless area in central Idaho.

The area contains rugged river breaklands and high mountain lakes, offering outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Opportunities for solitude and challenge lie off the main travel routes and destinations.

The scenery has been described as beautiful but not spectacular. Mineral potential is relatively low according to a joint U.S. Bureau of Mines-U.S. Geological Survey study.

The area appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, certain intrusions by man have occurred. They are discussed in detail in later sections of this plan:

Mining excavations
Low standard roads
Private airfields
566 acres of private land holdings and associated buildings
Commercial outfitter improvements
Administrative structures and facilities
Trails and signs
Litter, detergents, human waste
Mechanical noise
Fire control activities
Nonnative species of plants and animals
Fish stocking
Helispots
Telephone lines
Logged areas

Assumptions

1. If nonconforming uses are terminated and/or removed, the area is still capable of returning to a near-natural condition.

Management Direction

1. Until Congress acts on the wilderness proposal, the Forest Service will manage the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area in such a manner as to leave it unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The contiguous study areas will be managed to retain their wilderness potential.

2. Decide which portions of the Primitive Area will be managed as trailless areas by 1982.

AIR AND SOUND

Air quality and visibility over the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area is presently very good. Large man-made pollution sources such as industry, homes, and automobile concentrations are far from the area. The area would most likely meet Federal standards for Class I ambiant air quality which permits only minute pollution increase above a natural baseline.

Natural sources of pollution and visual impairment, occurring for periods of two hours to a few days, are periods of fog, heavy rainfall, snowstorms, dust from wind erosion, and smoke from forest fires started by lightning. Man-made pollution sources are campfires, man-caused forest fires, dust from pack and saddle stock, and fumes from power boats.

The Clean Air Act Amendment of 1977 (P.L. 95-95, Stat. 635) requires this area be considered for Class I Quality Standard and a recommendation made to Congress and the State of Idaho by August 8, 1978.

Sounds from various human activities in, over, or near the area include low overflights, sonic booms, aircraft landing at private airfields, jet boats in the river, vehicles on roads, fire control activities (chainsaws, pumps, helicopters), authorized use of motorized equipment by other agencies.

These sounds can vary from an annoying noise to a welcome comforting sound depending on individual opinion and situation. A few complaints have been received on sonic booms and low aircraft overflights. We do not consider the amount of these or other sound-causing activities excessive at the present time.

Assumptions

1. Air quality will remain high unless threatened by outside pollution sources.

2. The number of aircraft flying over the area is expected to increase.

3. There will be increased sonic boom activity due to citizen pressure to remove these flights from over occupied valleys.

Management Direction

1. Study area under the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendment direction and if the area qualifies, recommend it be classified as a Class I Air Quality Area. Responsibility: Region One air quality specialists in 1978.

2. Continue contact with U.S. military services requesting the minimum

number of low-level, high-speed practice flights over this area. Responsibility: Forest dispatchers each year.

3. Monitor and record the number and location of low-level aircraft flights and sonic booms through wilderness users, wilderness rangers, lookouts, and Forest air patrols. Responsibility: all Ranger Districts.

SOILS

The soils over most of the area are residual soils (formed in place), while smaller areas have been derived from alluvial deposits and glacial activity. There are three major rock types from which the residual soils were formed: gneiss, quartz monzonite, and quartzite. Soils developed from these rocks are coarse to moderately coarse in texture, weak-structured, and are highly susceptible to erosion. The breakland soils which occur at lower elevations adjacent to major streams are shallow and sandy. They generally have a very low stability and a low to very low vegetative potential.

Although most of the soil erosion occurring in the area can be classed as natural geologic erosion, there are small areas which have been subjected to erosion from other activity. Design, location and heavy use of some trails, as well as past overgrazing, have led to areas of gullying and sheet erosion. Soil movement has occurred as a result of wildfires. Old firelines have caused accelerated erosion.

Assumptions

1. Because of the unstable soils, any surface disturbance has the potential to cause accelerated erosion.

2. Disturbed areas will be difficult to stabilize because of extensive areas of low to very low vegetative potential.

Management Direction

1. Recognize that use in the area will increase erosion, then use those management techniques which will minimize the erosion.

2. Identify and correct conditions, resulting from human activity, which are causing accelerated erosion, e.g. waterbar firelines, adjust grazing management systems, relocate trails taking soil variation into account.

3. Areas eroded by natural processes (e.g. wildfires, big game use, avalanches) will be allowed to revegetate naturally.

MINERALS AND MINING

County records show that more than 200 mining claims have been located in the area, nearly all within one mile of the Salmon River. Since the discovery of gold along the Salmon River in the 1860's, all of the Salmon River valley in the area has been held by placer location at one time or another.

At present a total of 26 acres of mining properties are patented within the area. An undetermined number of unpatented claims are scattered throughout the area. None are active at the present time.

Until December 31, 1983, the U.S. mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing are applicable in the wilderness. Recently adopted Department of Agriculture regulations define actions the Forest Service is required to take into consideration for the protection of the wilderness resource. Refer to 36CFR252, FSM 2323.7, and FSM 2851.8.

A mineral survey was made of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines during 1968-1970. The survey included reconnaissance geologic mapping, an aeromagnetic survey, and the collection of about 845 samples during more than 46 man-months of field investigation.

Stream-sediment samples were taken from all major streams and most tributaries. Samples of stream gravel were panned to check for heavy-mineral concentrations, especially gold. Rock samples were taken during stream and ridge-crest traverses. Extensive sampling and detailed studies were made in the areas of old workings, mining claim locations, and areas of potential mineral deposits. Test pits and trenches were excavated in gravel bars and terraces along the Salmon River in order to sample the content of gold and other heavy metals of these deposits.

Known deposits of fluorite occur in three ore shoots associated with a large quartz vein near Big Squaw Creek. A 1972 U.S. Geological Survey-Bureau of Mines report estimates that the deposits contain 100,000 tons of commercial-grade ore.

A small area on Prospect Ridge is underlain by rocks that contain copper, lead, zinc, silver, and tin. The occurrence appears too small to be of economic interest.

Geologic, geochemical, and geophysical data all suggest that the likelihood of important new discoveries is extremely low.

Assumptions

1. Prospecting activity will continue and can be expected to increase.

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture mining regulations will be followed.

Management Direction

1. Coordinate all mineral activities with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho, and other related agencies.

2. Each Ranger District will keep prospectors and miners abreast of all current applicable regulations.

3. District Rangers will work with owners of patented mining properties to minimize adverse effects of mining and prospecting.

4. The procedural requirements and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 will be followed in evaluating all requests for access, tailing dumps, millsites, or other mining uses on National Forest lands.

VEGETATION

Vegetation in the area presents interesting contrasts in habitat types. The lower elevations are represented by ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass or Idaho fescue, and Douglas-fir/ninebark or snowberry. Above the 5000 foot elevation, subalpine fir habitat types dominate. Large repeated fires in the early 1900's created extensive brush fields. These are now being replaced by conifers.

A unique species in the area is subalpine larch (Larix lyalli.) Its range of occurrence is limited to higher watersheds in the Cascades and northern Rocky Mountains. This species covers about 525 acres within the area, all above 8000 feet in elevation.

Five clearcut blocks totalling 88 acres in the Big Mallard Creek contiguous area -- along the Nez Perce Trail road -- were cut between 1966 and 1968. Four of the blocks were planted to tree seedlings in 1968, and the last block was planted in 1972. Four of the blocks are scheduled for thinning, starting in 1981.

Man's use of trees has had minimal impacts over the rest of the area. Trees have been used for constructing trails and bridges, cabins, homesteads, mines, and commercial and noncommercial campsite improvements (e.g. feed bins, corrals, hitchracks, meat racks, tent poles.) Wood has also been used for fuel.

In alpine areas and some concentrated use areas, supplies of green and dry wood are limited. Cutting, hacking, and girdling of live trees has occurred. Trees and their root systems have been damaged by tying stock to trees. Wire and nails in green trees have caused some damage.

Livestock were using parts of the area as long ago as 1900 according to incomplete and sketchy Forest Service records. Domestic sheep use occurred as early as 1917 when part of a band of 10,000 head grazed along the Salmon River. This use ceased about 1940. Some unauthorized horse use has been continuous.

Fourteen grazing allotments for commercial recreation stock are presently located in the area. Ten of the allotments are located at higher elevations. Limitations on growth characteristic of those areas include shortness of growing season, low nutrient reserves in the soil, and possibility of soil compaction in wet meadows. Presently these allotments are in fair to good condition with a stable or upward trend. However, a marked increase in use, particularly in wet meadows and in lake basins, could cause serious problems.

The other four recreation stock allotments are located at lower elevations along the Salmon River. On the steep riverbreak slopes, soils are loose and very easily disturbed by trampling, leaving these slopes very susceptible to soil erosion. In these allotments, a few

localized areas adjacent to some outfitter camps have deteriorated. Vegetation and soils in those areas are in fair to poor condition with a stable or downward trend. Some conflict with wintering big game may occur in these areas. Vegetation outside these localized areas is generally in good condition with a stable or upward trend, and no conflict with wintering big game is occurring.

Two cattle grazing allotments lie partially in the Big Mallard Creek contiguous area. One provides forage for 110 head of cattle. The other provides forage for 60 head of cattle in conjunction with grazing on private land (Cook Ranch.) The condition of cattle grazing allotments is good with an upward trend.

Forage is also utilized by noncommercial recreation stock.

Salting for livestock or game has denuded a few localized areas.

Cheatgrass, goatweed, thistle, spotted knapweed, and some cultivated nonnative species are present in localized areas.

Assumptions

1. Unmanipulated vegetation in wilderness will became increasingly important as a benchnark measure as nonwilderness lands are developed.

2. Supplies of forage, pole-size timber, and fuel wood are limited for any given site.

Management Direction

1. Vegetative rehabilitation projects are not necessary at this time. Presently disturbed areas will be allowed to heal naturally.

2. A guide for maximum forage use by pack and saddle stock will be 30% of the current plant growth for preferred species.

3. All range will be managed to keep the vegetation and soil in a good to excellent condition. If a range analysis indicates that an area is below these standards, livestock grazing systems will be adjusted to effect an upward trend.

4. Range Allotment Management Plans will be developed by 1985 to meet the objectives of this plan. Responsibility: each Ranger District.

5. Area closures (e.g. meadows, lakeshores, and alpine parks) needed to heal the wilderness resource will be determined by each District Ranger during the field season, approved by the Forest Supervisor, and appropriately posted.

6. Only light to moderate forage use will be permitted in high elevation areas.

7. Salt used for recreation stock will be in block form, secured off the ground, and packed out at the end of each use period. Salt will be located away from trails, campsites, and water sources.

8. Salting for domestic livestock will not be permitted.

9. Standing and down dead trees may be cut for fuel wood and camp use, provided they are cut from locations screened from trails, camps, and shorelines of lakes and streams.

10. Determine by 1981 whether we need to set up guidelines for leaving snags for wildlife in heavy use areas.

11. Encourage use of wood fuel substitutes in subalpine and other areas where wood is scarce. Responsibility: wilderness rangers, portal signs, brochures.

12. Encourage use of supplemental feed and pellets instead of hay. Responsibility: wilderness rangers and printed material.

13. Tying stock to trees for extended periods will be discouraged.

14. Thinning of the clearcut blocks in the Big Mallard Creek contiguous area will not be allowed until Congress acts on the wilderness proposal.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

A wide variety of wildlife -- mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians -- are present in the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and contiguous study areas.

Archeological evidence indicates that bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and mule deer occupied the area when primitive Indians hunted along the river breaks.

Elk, at least those from which the present herds developed, were not known in the breaks until around 1927. They became fairly numerous after about 1935. The general absence of fire since then has reduced preferred browse species of redstem ceanothus, serviceberry, mountain maple, willow, and mountain mahogany.

Big game hunting is an important recreational activity. Bag limits, species, seasons, and limited permit systems are established and administered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, moose, black bear, goat, sheep, and cougar are big game species present.

Blue, spruce, and ruffed grouse are present and harvested in limited numbers. Waterfowl are limited to a small number of ducks and geese. Nonnative populations of chukars and Hungarian partridge exist in small numbers.

Predators are a natural and important component in the ecosystems of the area. No official predator control programs have been conducted in the area.

Wolverine, marten, otter, beaver, mink, and fisher are present. A minor amount of recreational trapping continues in the area.

Some other nongame species present are coyote, lynx, bobcat, red fox, weasel, porcupine, various squirrels, chipmunks, mice, voles, pika, marmot, gopher, owls, hawks, and song birds. Osprey, golden eagles, and bald eagles have been sighted in the area.

Grizzly bear and wolf may have been native to the area. Neither the Forest Service nor the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have plans to reestablish the grizzly, wolf, or any other species in the area at this time.

During the summer of 1976, the University of Idaho and the Nezperce National Forest entered a cooperative agreement to study bighorn sheep populations and distributions along the Salmon River breaklands between Sabe and Sheep Creeks. The final report recommended that "a primary management goal for the area should be maintenance of conditions suitable for bighorn populations on currently occupied range." The report also suggested that access within the bighorn range should

remain restricted to the current trail system to minimize adverse human contact with this bighorn population.

A one-acre game exclosure, located in the key winter range above Corey Bar, consists of a ten-foot high woven wire fence with eight-inch diameter posts. There are also several grass utilization cages constructed of steel fence posts and woven wire located throughout the area.

The rivers and the lakes in the area support both resident and anadromous fish. Resident native species include cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, sturgeon, and whitefish. Resident non-native species include brook trout, arctic grayling, California golden trout, and smallmouth bass. Anadromous fish include steelhead trout, sockeye salmon, spring chinook salmon, and summer chinook salmon.

Investigations of Salmon River tributaries -- Horse, Bargamin, Swet, Sabe and Hamilton Creeks -- and Selway River headwaters indicate that 50 miles of these streams contain sections of gravel suitable as spawning beds for steelhead trout. A part of these 50 miles of streams, principally in Bargamin Creek, has spawning gravel used by chinook salmon.

Many of the high mountain lakes provide fishing in a very scenic setting attractive to many recreationists. Natural spawning sites are limited and lake depths are often quite shallow, so only a few lakes are capable of reproducing or sustaining their own populations.

All of the lakes were stocked by aircraft prior to 1964 by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. All of the lakes, with the possible exception of Elk Track Lakes, were barren prior to stocking. At present the lakes are stocked with rainbow and cutthroat on a three-year rotational basis. Only East Dennis and Hidden Lakes are still being stocked with grayling.

Under State law, all fish and wildlife are the property of the State of Idaho. In the Nezperce Indian Treaty of 1855, "The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams where running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians." The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area is within those reservation boundaries.

Assumptions

1. Hunting and fishing are established uses and will continue to be important recreational experiences for many visitors.

2. Largely as a result of successful fire suppression, vegetative succession is advancing with habitat losses to certain wildlife species and will continue unless this trend is reversed.

3. Wilderness can provide important habitat for wildlife that does not tolerate well the pressures of civilization.

4. The off-site value of anadromous fish will became increasingly important.

Management Direction

1. Wildlife and fishery management will be consistent with wilderness values, and protect or perpetuate the wilderness resource.

2. Manipulation of wildlife habitat will not be permitted.

3. Burning by other than natural fire is prohibited.

4. Salting or supplemental feeding of wildlife will not be permitted.

5. The game exclosure above Corey Bar has served its purpose and will be removed by 1980.

6. Develop a fish stocking plan for all waters within the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game by 1981. When approved, the plan will be included in the appendix.

7. The Nezperce National Forest Supervisor will request a meeting with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game by 1980 to draw up cooperative agreements on management planning for native wildlife, with emphasis on threatened and endangered native species.

8. Encourage research and cooperative studies on animal populations, distribution, behavior, and habitat.

WATERSHED

Precipitation in the area yields an average of 416,000 acre-feet of water per year to the Salmon and Selway Rivers, important components of the Columbia River system. Seven miles of the Selway River, classified as a Wild River in 1968, lie within the Primitive Area. A portion of the Salmon River is under consideration for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Limited water quality measurements taken in 1969 suggest waters of high quality. High quality water is important in maintaining the anadromous and resident fisheries in the Columbia River system. Chemical analyses of these waters indicate that they are very soft, therefore, fish and aquatic invertebrates are highly susceptible to introduced toxins.

The major rivers and streams run free and clear during most of the year. Intensive short duration storms may cause soil to move and cloud streams. The Selway River and tributaries of the Salmon will react quickly to major storms and more localized summer thunderstorms with rapidly fluctuating flows. High natural erosion rates along the Salmon River canyon and in the uplands east of Bargamin Creek yield significant but unmeasured sediment loads.

There are no existing snow and water measurement sites within the area.

Assumptions

1. Demands for high quality onsite and downstream water will continue.

2. As visitor use increases, the potential for human-caused water pollution will increase.

Management Direction

1. Require all wilderness users to pack out all of their unburnable refuse.

2. Develop and distribute to wilderness users a brochure by 1981, containing instructions for minimum impact camping, including correct methods for human waste disposal. Responsibility: all Ranger Districts.

3. Locate stock-holding facilities at least 200 feet from lakes and streams where possible.

4. Watershed restoration projects are not necessary at this time and presently disturbed areas will be allowed to heal naturally.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Considerable inventory and evaluation work of the cultural and historic resources found within the Salmon River Breaks has been completed. The Jim Moore Place, an early mining claim, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nearly all known prehistorical and historical events associated with the area occurred close to the Salmon River. The river and banks were known to have been a source of food, a travel route, a source of income from furs and minerals, and a place to homestead. Areas away from the river have been less intensively investigated.

Lewis and Clark were the first documented white men to see the Salmon River country. During the 1860's the gold seekers and miners came to the area. After the gold placer locations were exhausted, the area experienced a severe population decline and resulting quiet period.

During the Depression years, starting about 1929 and continuing until near the onset of World War II, placer locations on the Salmon River again became active. Most of the miners and families left prior to or during World War II. Of the few remaining, most lived on small ranches and made the cash portion of their living as outfitters and guides for hunting and fishing parties.

Two seasons of archeological work in the lower Salmon River canyon give evidence for a big game hunting pattern at an early, but indefinitely dated, time period. The work also pointed out the scarcity of knowledge available about the area and the dangerous level of site destruction occurring in the canyon.

Assumptions

1. The historical and archeological resources of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area are a unique and nonrenewable resource.

Management Direction

1. Comply with appropriate Federal regulations for cultural resource management including E.O. 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

2. Cooperate with agencies, groups and individuals to investigate, evaluate, and interpret cultural resource sites.

3. Federal undertakings which have the potential to adversely impact cultural resources will be subject to Advisory Council on Historic Preservation review and comment.

4. Site locations will not be released until steps have been taken to preserve whatever information the sites may contain.

RECREATION

Wilderness is not a recreation area, even though recreation is one of the greatest demands placed on wilderness. In 1976 recreationists spent an estimated 16,000 visitor days (defined as 12 hours present) in the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and Horse Creek contiguous area. The average length of stay was seven days. These visitor days do not include boat use along the Salmon River (refer to appendix, Salmon River Plan, for river use data.) Visitor activities included hunting 60%, fishing 15%, camping 15%, other 10%. Many of these activities could have been accommodated in unclassified National Forest areas managed for such recreational uses.

Very little visitation occurs from December through May. Use begins to gradually build in June, and is heaviest during the big game hunting season in September and October. Approximately 50% of the use occurs through the services of commercial outfitters.

Studies have not been made to determine the area's carrying capacity -- that is, the capacity of the area to accommodate visitors while retaining its wilderness values and maintaining a wilderness experience level. Present use levels are considered to be below the potential human carrying capacity for the area as a whole. Some areas of concentrated use -- around mountain lakes, along major streams, beside meadows, and at portal areas -- show signs of physical deterioration. Concentrated use occurs because of a limited number of suitable campsites, i.e. those with a good water source or with sufficient grazing for stock or not under special use permit.

Visitors often lack knowledge in ways to minimize their impact on the land. They may build improvements such as hitchracks, meatracks, and tables, and fail to take them down when they leave. They may fail to dispose of waste properly or to pack out all unburnable garbage.

There are twenty portals to the area that influence use patterns by directing traffic down particular trails. Some portals also serve areas adjacent to the Primitive Area. Some have been used by commercial outfitters as camps with permanent or semi-permanent facilities. Facilities vary from entrances with registration boxes, information and map boards, corrals, feedbunks, hitchracks, loading ramps, and toilets, to entrances having only signs designating Primitive Area boundary and restriction on use of mechanized equipment.

Assumptions

1. Recreational use will continue to increase, and, unless altered by management techniques, will continue to concentrate at popular and heavily used locations.

2. Short-term users on the wilderness fringe area will account for the greatest increase in recreation activity.

Management Direction

1. Because of relatively light noncommercial use, Forest Service authorized improvements such as toilets, corrals, hitchracks, etc., are not presently needed, but may be necessary in the future to protect the wilderness resource. An environmental analysis report will be completed on all improvements prior to installation. Visitors may set up temporary facilities which must be removed at the end of each period of use.

2. Parties of more than 20 people or using more than 20 head of stock must obtain written approval from the District Ranger.

3. Prepare a plan for determining the carrying capacity of the area. Use methods and standards developed by the task force working on carrying capacity for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Liason: Bitterroot National Forest.

4. Each Ranger District will develop coordinated plans for all existing portals by 1988. These plans will be included in the Transportation Plan, and will describe facilities needed and a site plan.

5. Accelerated effort will be made to advise visitors and potential visitors of minimum impact camping techniques through wilderness ranger contacts, brochures, and the news media.

6. Campsites showing heavy overuse may be closed and allowed to heal naturally. Area closures will be determined by the District Ranger, approved by the Forest Supervisor, and appropriately posted.

7. The following methods of dispersing use are considered appropriate at this time:

a. trail maintenance and relocation
b. signing
c. contacts by wilderness rangers
d. brochures and maps

SPECIAL USES

Other than outfitter-guide permits, most special use permits are associated with the private land adjacent to the Salmon River. A special use phone line connects private holdings between Campbells Ferry and Allison Ranch. Another phone line runs from Crofoot Ranch to the Salmon River. All other uses which occur within the Salmon River corridor are discussed in the Salmon River Plan (see appendix.)

The largest category of special uses within the area is commercial outfitting. Special use permits are issued to outfitters for summer pack trips, fishing trips, and fall hunting trips. Ten commercial outfitters operate 32 camps within the area, providing services for an estimated 8000 service days. Approximately 50% of all recreation use occurs through the services of commercial outfitters, and 75% of the outfitter use occurs in the fall during big game hunting season.

Until recently little emphasis has been placed on camp locations with regard to impact on soils, vegetation, aesthetics, or the solitude of other recreationists. Current direction in this plan is to minimize the physical impact of man's activities in the wilderness and to place emphasis on maintaining an untrammeled environment.

Limited campsites and heavy use during the fall hunting season have resulted in an adverse effect on solitude in some areas. Studies are needed to determine the capacity of the area to accommodate visitors and still retain the wilderness value.

There is considerable contrast in elevation, climate, and ecological conditions within the area. The area is extremely variable in its ability to withstand use.

Assumptions

1. Present use indicates a public need for commercial outfitting and guide services within the area.

2. Generally the smaller the party size (both in numbers of people and stock), the less impact there is on the wilderness resource and solitude. The goal is to reduce and keep person and stock numbers to 20 or less unless specific campsite and grazing areas are capable of handling larger parties.

3. In some areas during the fall hunting season, use may be approaching maximum capacity in terms of solitude.

4. The outfitters and guides can play an important role in teaching their clientele about wilderness and how to enjoy the wilderness resource while creating the minimum possible impact.

5. Some simple improvements may be necessary at certain specific

outfitter camp locations to protect the wilderness resource.

Management Direction

1. An individual outfitter operation management plan and an environmental analysis report will be completed for each outfitter operation within the area by 1982.

2. Individual outfitter operation management plans will be jointly developed by the outfitter and the District Ranger. The plan will determine:

a. maximum size of party
b. length of stay
c. maximum number of stock
d. feeding criteria for stock
e. simple improvements needed
f. camp locations, size, and layout
g. installation dates for camps and removal dates
h. period of time that a camp may be left unoccupied.

3. Simple outfitter camp improvements may be authorized by the Forest Supervisor on a case-by-case basis if the environmental analysis report indicates that the improvement is necessary for the management of the wilderness resource.

4. Until the carrying capacity of the area is determined, outfitter service days during the fall hunting season may not be increased beyond present camp capacity.

5. Dismantle the phone line from Crofoot Ranch to the Salmon River by 1980.

NOTE: Consult approved Idaho Primitive Area Management Plan for its management direction on outfitter operations and its procedures for coordination between Regions One and Four.

PRIVATE LANDS

The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area contains 265 acres of private lands. Homestead Entry Surveys account for 239 acres and the remaining 26 acres are patented under Mineral Survey No. 3366. The Big Mallard Creek contiguous area contains 301 HES acres. The Gattin Ranch, comprising 95 acres, lies along upper Horse Creek one mile outside of the Horse Creek contiguous area.

Associated with these holdings are houses, outbuildings, and sometimes heavy equipment. On some of the private holdings, land is under cultivation and irrigation. This unnatural treatment of the land makes it easier for exotic plant species to invade adjacent wilderness lands.

Private lands are accessible by river, air, trail, and road. Whitewater, Yellow Pine, Allison, and Cook Ranches have landing strips presently in use. Painter Bar, Whitewater, Yellow Pine, and Allison Ranches are accessible by boat. Whitewater and Painter Bar are accessible via roads (a 60-foot easement across Whitewater was obtained in 1930.) All private lands are accessible by trail. Snowmobiles are permitted to use the trail into Cook Ranch (in the Big Mallard Creek contiguous area.)

Crofoot Ranch was purchased by the U.S. Government in May 1978.

Assumptions

1. Acquisition costs for private inholdings will continue to increase.

2. The difficulty of acquisition due to sub-division, future development, and speculative value will increase.

3. The use of aircraft will continue at private airstrips.

4. The December 31, 1983 deadline established by the Wilderness Act for filing new mineral claims may result in additional mineral patent applications. Refer to Minerals and Mining.

Management Direction

1. The Forest Supervisor will actively seek to acquire private lands through purchase or exchange on a willing buyer/willing seller basis.

2. Private lands acquired by the Forest Service will be restored to natural or near-natural conditions.

3. The disposition of the buildings on Crofoot Ranch and a timetable will be determined through public involvement and an environmental analysis report in 1979.

4. Airstrips on private lands acquired by the Forest Service will be closed.

FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE

The insect and disease conditions found within the Salmon River Breaks do not exhibit substantial variations from those conditions found within other large forested areas of the northern Rocky Mountains where virgin timber stands are predominantly mature and thrifty.

Aerial and ground surveys conducted in the early 1970's indicated that conditions were fairly stable. Spruce budworm had shown a slight decrease. Pine butterfly appeared to be on the increase. Douglas-fir, pine engraver, bark, and mountain pine beetles were present, as were dwarfmistletoe and lodgepole pine needle cast.

The area, particularly the breaks, has a long history of fire activity. The fires associated with the river slopes have been unique from the standpoint of difficult access, excessively steep topography, flashy fuels, and severe ground temperatures.

Fire records show that 24% of the area has burned at least once since 1900. Wildfires in the past were continually altering the landscape -- creating large brushfields, lodgepole pine stands, extensive snag patches, and vegetative mosaics of different species and age classes. Wildlife population and distribution responded to the changes in habitat created by fire.

Fire suppression has resulted in the accumulation of fuels, discriminated against species of vegetation and wildlife adapted to periodic fire, and led to physical scars on the wilderness environment. The Corn Creek Fire (17,000 acres), which burned in 1961, resulted in the dozer-construction of approximately four miles of fireline in the Horse Creek contiguous area. These scars are still evident after 17 years.

Fire detection is handled by lookouts and air patrols. Most fires are manned by helitack or smokejumpers. Many natural openings for helispots exist. A few helispots were constructed by cutting out timbered areas. Approximately 100 helispots exist within the area at present. Some of them are marked on the ground with paint. Aerial application of fire retardant is used on some fires. Chainsaws and pumps are sometimes used in fire suppression. Personnel and equipment are often removed from fire sites by helicopter.

The frequency of fire in the area between 1966 and 1976 is indicated in the following figure:

Forest	District	Cause		Acres Burned
		Natural	Man	1966 - 1976
Bitterroot	West Fork	87	3	176
Nezperce	Red River	83	8	10
Salmon	North Fork	19	0	15
TOTALS		189	11	201

Assumptions

1. As wilderness visitation continues to increase, so will the need for fire prevention work.

2. Fire is not playing its natural role within the area. Fuel loads will continue to build, as will the potential for intense and/or large fires.

3. Some people will continue to favor suppression of all fires. There is a need to inform people of the benefits and costs of a natural wildfire program.

4. Insects and disease are a natural part of the wilderness ecosystem.

Management Direction

1. Develop a Fire Management Plan and prescriptions for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area by 1983.

2. Until a Fire Management Plan is developed, fire suppression measures that least alter the landscape or disturb the land surface shall be given preference. The use of bulldozers or other heavy equipment in fire suppression activities must be approved by the Regional Forester.

3. Fire demobilization will be by nonmotorized means, unless the Forest Supervisor determines that:

   a. manpower and equipment are needed on another fire emergency or
   b. removal by nonmotorized means will create an adverse impact on the wilderness resource.

4. Forest Supervisor approval is required for use of motorized equipment during fire suppression activities.

5. No new helispots will be constructed and no existing helispots will be maintained, except during emergency situations with Forest Supervisor approval. Site restoration will be completed on painted helispots.

6. Sheep Hill, Salmon Mountain, and Elkhorn lookouts will continue to be manned. Elkhorn and Sheep Hill will be manned, supplied, and brought down by nonmotorized means, unless snow depths prevent the use of stock.

7. District Rangers will appoint a Resource Coordinator for all project fires to see that suppression activities are compatible with wilderness values.

8. Fire control structures, camps, and improvements shall be located outside the area, when feasible.

9. Restoration of firelines, where prescribed by the Resource Coordinator, will begin immediately after control is established. Acceptable erosion control methods include waterbars and seeding of native species (the dozer-line on the Corn Creek Fire has been waterbarred and seeded.) All unburnable refuse resulting from control action will be removed.

10. The Fire Prevention Plan on each district will incorporate the provisions covered in this management plan.

11. Insect and disease outbreaks will not be artificially controlled, unless necessary to protect excessive loss of resource values outside the area. Proposed chemical control projects must be approved by the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. The Chief must approve other control measures.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The early trail system was established by Indians, miners, trappers, sheepherders, and settlers. In the early 1900's the Forest Service began maintaining some of these trails for fire protection and administration purposes, as well as building new trails. Today the trail system totals 461 miles and is largely used for recreational activity.

Portions of trails have gradients exceeding 40 to 50%. Much of the soil is extremely erosive. Some slopes have multiple routes that have eroded three to four feet deep. Some sections have eroded to bedrock. Recreationists sometimes construct trails to gain access to certain areas. Some trails concentrate visitors in heavily used areas and at favorite attractions. Detour trails, which often accelerate erosion, are common where the Forest Service has not logged out the trail in several years.

Once the carrying capacity of the Primitive Area is established, the transportation system can be planned and managed accordingly (refer to Recreation.) At present the Ranger Districts have neither the funds nor the manpower to gather good use data. Subjective observations indicate that some trails could accomodate more use and others are reaching their carrying capacity.

Small tracts of the area in the Sabe Creek, Horse Creek, and Harrington Creek drainages remain trailless.

Trail fund committments have been insufficient to keep pace with increasing costs, use, and resource damage.

A total of 55 miles of low standard roads serves the area during the summer. The Nez Perce Trail road from Elk City, Idaho, to Darby, Montana, provides access to the north boundary; the Whitewater Ranch and Mackay Bar roads to the west boundary; and the Horse Creek and Salmon River roads to the east boundary. Twelve miles of the Nezperce Trail road and six miles of the Whitewater Ranch road are within the original Primitive Area boundary, and open to public access. Congress could exclude these two road corridors from wilderness classification.

Five pack bridges are located within the area: Bargamin Creek, Big Mallard Creek, Horse Creek, Thirteen Creek, and Witter Creek. They provide the most suitable and logical crossing during primary period of use where creeks cannot be safely forded by horse and/or foot. They also help prevent resource damage by dispersing visitor traffic. There is a bridge across the Salmon River at Campbells Ferry. The bridge across Bargamin Creek at the mouth of Cache Creek was removed in 1975 because it had become unserviceable. A safe ford cannot be built because of unstable soils and steep slopes.

Refer to Private Lands for a discussion of airfields and to Fire for a discussion of helispots.

Assumptions

1. Used as a management tool, the transportation system can help control the location and intensity of visitor use.

2. Without proper maintenance and emphasis on relocation and correction of eroded sections, the present trail system will continue to contribute to resource damage.

3. Certain areas need to be kept trailless to provide a broader spectrum of travel opportunities and solitude.

Management Direction

1. Inventory the transportation system by 1980. Develop a transportation plan once the carrying capacity of the Primitive Area is established.

2. Decide which portions of the Primitive Area will be managed as trailless areas by 1982. Trails will not be constructed in essentially trailless areas before then.

3. Until Congress acts on the wilderness proposal, the Big Mallard Creek contiguous area will remain open to snowmobiles. The Horse Creek and Bargamin Creek contiguous areas will be closed to all motorized vehicles.

4. The Nez Perce Trail road and the Whitewater Ranch road will remain open to motorized public access.

5. The bridges across Bargamin, Big Mallard, Horse, Thirteen, and Witter Creeks will be maintained and replaced as they become unserviceable. The bridge across Bargamin Creek at the mouth of Cache Creek will be rebuilt in 1981.

6. Use of motorized equipment in trail maintenance or relocation must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Regional Forester.

7. Trails will be maintained or relocated to provide reasonably safe passage, to minimize erosion, and to attain wilderness management objectives. Maintenance standards are contained in the appendix.

8. Coordinate trail maintenance/relocation at the annual February meeting among the three Ranger Districts.

SIGNING

Many different standards of signs can be found in the area: redwood with white letters, grey with routed letters, colored metal, old unpainted wood with barely legible letters. Old signs are commonly not taken down when new signs are put up. Some signs are missing.

Few of the existing signs are in line with Forest Service signing policy which specifies (FSH 7109.11 -- 52.81):

rustic, routed signs of a weathered natural finish
no trail numbers
no secondary destinations
no mileage markers
no names of natural features.

The present signing system neither promotes a spirit of adventure, nor adequately disperses visitors. Signs at portals do not define wilderness regulations or emphasize ways to reduce human impact on the wilderness resource.

Regions One and Four have agreed to use a common sign standard for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

Assumptions

1. An accurate map of sufficient scale would partially alleviate the need for on-the-ground signing and would encourage the visitor to test his skills in map and compass reading and woodsmanship. Refer to Information and Education.

2. A coordinated signing system can help control the locations and intensity of visitor use.

3. Nondirectional signs that provide for user orientation, convenience, education, or interpretation shall be replaced by brochures and interpretive material. Refer to Information and Education.

Management Direction

1. Each Ranger District will inventory its sign needs by 1980. Signs may be placed only at trail junctions, trail or area closures, and points where visitor dispersal is important.

2. All signs will be unpainted with a weathered appearance. Destination signs will show one primary destination for each fork of a junction. No mileage will be indicated.

3. Existing directional signs will not be removed until a new map is distributed to the public. The new signs will then be installed.

ADMINISTRATION

The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and contiguous areas are jointly administered by the Bitterroot, Nezperce, and Salmon National Forests. The area lies within the jurisdiction of three Ranger Districts: West Fork District of the Bitterroot National Forest (Region One), Red River District of the Nezperce National Forest (Region One), and North Fork District of the Salmon National Forest (Region Four.)

Administrative responsibility for management on each District is vested with the District Ranger and carried out under the functional supervision of a Resource Assistant. Field work is usually implemented by seasonal wilderness rangers, who inform visitors of policies and regulations; inventory visitor use, fuels, wildlife species, vegetation and soils conditions; check out special uses; pick up garbage; aid visitors; do minor law enforcement.

Trail crews maintain the trail system by logging out, brushing, installing waterbars, building up sloughing areas, and relocating sections of trail.

The communication system is dependent upon high frequency radio. Communication with field personnel is only possible when lookouts are manned. When lookouts are manned, inter-forest radio communication is also possible. Elkhorn lookout has Bitterroot, Salmon, and Payette radio frequencies; Salmon Mountain lookout has Bitterroot and Nezperce frequencies; Sheep Hill lookout has Nezperce and Payette frequencies. A phone line connects Campbells Ferry to Dixie Guard Station.

Salmon Mountain is located on the Primitive Area boundary. Elkhorn and Sheep Hill are located inside the Primitive Area and are maintained for administrative purposes. They are needed for around-the-clock fire detection, and when weather conditions prevent air patrol from going up during a storm. Their location aids in speedy detection of fires on the steep slopes of the breaklands with its rapid rate-of-spread. The lookouts provide communication which is considered necessary for law enforcement and other administrative problems at this time.

Other administrative structures in the area include Swet Lake and Horse Heaven cabins, and a VIS center at Lantz Bar. Swet Lake cabin serves an administrative purpose as a base for packing supplies to lookouts and trail crews.

Some unburnable refuse resulting from past administrative activities and facilities (e.g. old lookouts, fire camps, dumps, phone lines) has not been packed out. This is a particular problem in the Horse Creek drainage where solid waste from several fire camps (related to the large Corn Creek Fire) will require removal. Present funding and manpower constraints limit the amount which can be packed out each year.

A mandatory permit system is not used in the area at present. A voluntary registration system, in effect at some portals, is somewhat ineffective.

Law enforcement, when needed, is difficult because of limited personnel, the area's remoteness, travel times, and difficulty in communication. Offenses include littering, fires, resource degradation, motorized equipment trespass, and other CFR violations.

Other agency requests to use motorized equipment have been considered on a case-by-case basis. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Energy have been permitted to land helicopters at a few points for mineral surveys and uranium evaluation. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has planted fish by helicopter. Search and rescue missions have used helicopters.

Many of the old-time Forest Service employees possessed work skills which are difficult to find in today's employees:

a. ability to use and sharpen hand tools such as crosscut saw, adze, froe, draw knife
b. ability to work with teams of horses
c. ability to work with pack and saddle stock
d. ability to build bridges using cable, winch, block and tackle, and spar poles.

The tools and the equipment to sharpen them are also disappearing.

Finances and manpower dictate the degree of administration in the area.

Assumptions

1. Administrative activities will continue to be directed primarily toward people management, trail maintenance, and fire management.

2. Providing adequate law enforcement will continue to be difficult. Most violations occur through ignorance.

Management Direction

1. The Red River District Ranger will annually schedule a February meeting between all administrative units to:

a. coordinate management activities for the coming field season
b. review the previous field season accomplishments
c. prepare a coordinated fiscal year budget.

2. Wilderness rangers will be selected for combinations of resource management knowledge, backcountry travel experience and skills, and the ability to work with the public.

3. Each Ranger District will send its wilderness rangers to coordinated in-service training programs.

4. Sheep Hill, Salmon Mountain, and Elkhorn lookouts will be maintained. Swet Lake cabin will be maintained. The disposition of Horse Heaven cabin will be determined following Congressional action. The VIS center at Lantz Bar is discussed in the Salmon River Plan (see appendix.)

5. All unburnable refuse resulting from past administrative action will be packed out by 1983.

6. A mandatory permit system will not be implemented at present, except as described under Recreation, Management Direction # 2. The voluntary registration system will continue.

7. Wilderness rangers will receive a minimum of Phase One Law Enforcement Training.

8. The use of helicopters and other motorized equipment by other agencies must be approved by the Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester, as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

9. The three District Rangers will work cooperatively with county sheriffs and others involved in search and rescue activities to assure that a reliable system for emergency action exists.

10. Work with other wilderness and primitive area personnel to perpetuate wood skills and to find tools necessary to maintain primitive skills.

RESEARCH

The area's ecosystems, changes in elevation and climate, fire history, and wildlife populations provide excellent opportunities for study and observation in a near-natural environment.

Over the years, a number of research projects have been conducted within the area. During the summer of 1976, Jerry Lauer, a graduate student from the University of Idaho, did a reconnaissance survey of bighorn sheep populations and habitats.

Research is needed to provide the land manager with guidelines covering a host of problems ranging from how best to manage and protect the basic wilderness resources of plants, animals, soil, and water; to the role of natural wildfire and the results of its control; to the effects of visitor use on the quality of the wilderness experience.

Assumptions

1. More knowledge is needed, both social and biological, to manage present use in such a way that the quality of the wilderness experience is preserved for future generations.

Management Direction

1. Develop a research needs plan by March 1981, listing those needs by priority. Responsibility: Bitterroot National Forest.

2. Distribute the research needs plan to agencies known to be carrying out wilderness and related research programs, e.g. Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Unit, University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center, Forestry Sciences Lab in Missoula, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Northern Forest Fire Laboratory.

3. Data collected for management purposes, such as use figures and resource inventories, will be made available to scientists for research purposes.

4. Research projects not dependent on wilderness will be directed to alternative areas outside the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. All research projects must be approved by the Regional Forester.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The map in the front of this management plan is the only single map of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the contiguous areas. It is available at the Ranger District offices. Three ½"-to-the-mile forest maps are available at the National Forest offices for a nominal fee. U.S. Geological Survey 7½ minute topographical maps are not yet available for the area. A map of the Salmon River is available at National Forest offices.

No informational brochure on the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area is available. Natural and cultural information has been collected to develop such a brochure.

Educational information explaining the Forest Service concept of wilderness and recommended visitor behavior and use ethics for wilderness is available at all National Forest offices.

As recreational use increases in the area, more interest is expressed and inquiries received concerning the area and its management.

Wilderness rangers, trail crews, district clerks, forest officers, and lookouts inform visitors of routes of travel, natural and special features, history, policies, rules and administrative activities.

Assumptions

1. Only a small percentage of visitors are contacted by Forest Service personnel in person, by letter, or by phone before entering the area.

2. An active education program with local service clubs and organizations, public schools, universities, and outfitter organizations is needed.

Management Direction

1. All Forest Service personnel having contact with the public will be given a copy of the final management plan.

2. Prepare a map and brochure for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. Lead Ranger District: Red River.

3. Initiate a winter education program to contact clubs, colleges, and special interest groups in Salmon and southern Idaho. It will deal with minimum impact camping, fire management, and the Wilderness Act. Responsibility: all Ranger Districts.

4. Personal contact with users prior to entry and during the visit will be stressed. Especially important are contacts by wilderness rangers. Personnel will be carefully selected and trained to insure

that visitor contacts will enhance both the resource and the wilderness visit.

5. Brochures, maps, and other printed material will encourage prospective users to use alternative areas if they prefer a natural experience under less primitive conditions than those of a classified area. These materials will not be geared toward advertising the area as a recreation area.

6. Promote the use of local newspaper articles and local radio and television spots to inform the public of wilderness regulations and management direction.

7. Publications and contacts will stress that personal risks associated with adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communication and travel are inherent in wilderness visits.

8. Letters of inquiry from the public will be answered within three days.

9. Encourage commercial outfitters to continue teaching their clientele about how to enjoy wilderness while creating a minimum impact.

APPENDIX

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA

The following written description is additional evidence of the location of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area boundary approved by Secretary Freeman January 11, 1963.

Beginning at a point on the north bank of the Salmon River (high water mark) at the mouth of Horse Creek, thence down the north bank (high water mark) of the Salmon River to a point near the southwest corner of unsurveyed Section 15, T. 24 N., R. 8 E., B.M., where the river bank (high water mark) intersects the line between this section and unsurveyed Section 16, T. 24 N., R. 8 E., adjacent. Thence north along this line (west line of unsurveyed Sections 15, 10, and 3) to a point on the Salmon River Breaks near the northwest corner of unsurveyed Section 3, T. 24 N., R. 8 E. Thence generally northeasterly along the top of the Breaks passing through Rabbit Point and thence to Bat Point. Thence generally northeasterly crossing the head of Myers Creek near the center of unsurveyed Section 8, T. 26 N., R. 10 E., and thence up the ridge between the Mallard Creek and Bargamin Creek drainages to Boston Mountain. Thence generally northerly on this ridge to the top of the divide between the Salmon River and the Selway River and then easterly along this divide to its junction with the ridge between Prospector and Grouse Creeks. Thence southeasterly along this ridge to Grouse Point and thence easterly down a spur ridge crossing Bargamin Creek at the mouth of Grouse Creek. Thence southeasterly up the ridge immediately north of Bleak Creek to the top of the main ridge between Bargamin Creek and Sabe Creek. Thence northeasterly along this ridge to the top of the Salmon River-Selway River divide. Thence generally easterly on this divide to Sabe Saddle and thence southeasterly along this divide passing over Sabe Mountain and thence along this divide to a point approximately one-half mile north of Salmon Mountain. Thence northeasterly and then southeasterly on the main ridge around the head of Three Lakes Creek to Buck Knob and thence southeasterly down a ridge crossing Three Lakes Creek at the mouth of Goat Creek. Thence continuing southeasterly on ridges crossing the Selway River at the mouth of Witter Creek and thence up the ridge between Wilkerson Creek and Stripe Creek over Wood Hump and Surprise Camp to the top of the Selway River-Salmon River divide, approximately one-half mile west of Squaw Peak. Thence southwesterly along this divide to Square Top Mountain. Thence northwesterly along this same divide to Stripe Mountain where boundary gradually turns southerly over Waugh Mountain and down Waugh Ridge to the Salmon River at the mouth of Horse Creek, the point of beginning.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

SALMON RIVER

North Fork, Idaho, to the Nezperce Forest

Boundary Near Riggins, Idaho

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Prepared By: Art Seamans
Art Seamans
Nezperce National Forest

Jim Wiley
Jim Wiley
Salmon National Forest

Recommended By: Roland M. Stoleson
Roland Stoleson
Salmon River Ranger District

Frank Elder
Frank Elder
North Fork Ranger District

Approved By: Don L. Biddison
Donald L. Biddison
Nezperce National Forest

John L. Emerson
John L. Emerson
Salmon National Forest

TRAIL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Where funds, manpower, expertise, and terrain permit, consider these maintenance objectives:

1. Construct trail berm only where essential to control damage or where it is desired to keep horses from walking the outside trail edge. Rocks placed along the outside edge of the trail, to divert traffic to the inside and to protect tread in loose soil, should be placed far enough apart to permit surface water drainage and avoid a regimented appearance.

2. Restore site and stabilize soil of abandoned trails by cross-ditching and obliterating with rocks, downed logs, etc. Install permanent rock energy dispersal barriers as needed.

3. Block access to abandoned trails and screen these points with rocks and logs, where feasible.

4. Limit trail clearing to the removal of pack bumpers, retaining material less than 2½ feet high and not in tread area. Clearing will be held to the minimum necessary to permit the expected use, i.e. less clearing for foot travel than for horse travel.

5. Locate borrow areas out of view from trail.

6. Use native material rather than treated timber for drainage structures.

7. Remove metal culverts as they become unserviceable. Replace with natural-looking materials.

8. A good ford will be used in place of a bridge if possible. A foot log should be placed upstream from the ford if possible for use in leading stock across the stream.

9. Corduroy/puncheon will be used only where trail relocation is impractical or would cause greater resource impact. Large diameter untreated puncheon set on large support logs is preferred.

10. Paint and flagging marking trail locations will be removed. Rock cairns will replace painted rocks.

11. Cutting trees and vegetation for trail maintenance will be limited to the minimum necessary to allow use of the trail and reduce environmental impacts caused by such use.

12. When possible, permit trails to revert to a more natural appearance through the action of nature.

SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA

1978

0 1 2 3 4 miles

LEGEND

- PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
- SALMON RIVER BREAKS PRIMITIVE AREA
- CONTIGUOUS AREA BOUNDARY
- CONTIGUOUS AREA COVERED in this PLAN
- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- PRIVATE LAND

R-1 CARTO